

CAMPUS SCENE

WOMEN'S GYM

❖ The Valley College Women's Basketball Tournament will be from Dec. 11 to 13.

MEN'S GYM

❖ Men's Basketball vs. Victor Valley on Dec. 16 at 7 p.m.

WOMEN'S GYM

❖ Women's Basketball vs. Oxnard on Dec. 20 at 5:30 p.m.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

❖ Finals Begin on Dec. 11 and end on Dec. 19.

❖ The campus will be closed from Dec. 20 to Jan. 6, 1998.

❖ Day and evening classes for the 1998 spring semester will begin on Jan. 12.

❖ The Crown magazine will be published on the Internet next semester. The magazine is looking for writers, photographers, artists, graphic artists, and computer-savvy individuals. Students interested in participating need to register in Journalism- Directed Study 185, 285, or 385. For more information contact Ed Bond at 781-1200 extension 274 or 276 or at his website: Ed_Bond@laccd.cc.ca.us

❖ The Valley College 1998 spring semester class schedule can be viewed at the college's official website. The address is: <http://www.lavc.cc.ca.us>

❖ Students can access the library on line catalog from the college home page by clicking on library link. The address is: <http://www.lavc.cc.ca.us/library.html>

❖ The Valley Star staff wishes you a safe and happy holiday season.

POLICE WATCH

December 9

A car was burglarized in Lot B. A stereo and backpack were taken. There are no suspects.

Information is provided by campus police.

Student Health Fee Raised

■ **MONEY:** Fee increase will help to expand health services.

By REBEKAH FOWLER
STAR REPORTER

Beginning with the 1998 spring semester, the student health fee could be raised from \$7.50 to \$11.

"The increase in student health fees was proposed to maximize the effectiveness of health services for our students," said Yasmine Delahoussaye, dean of student services. "It will also minimize the risk factors caused by reduced income."

Delahoussaye said that the extra funds will be used to increase the hours and marketing of services.

"Most students can afford the increase," Delahoussaye said. "Students receiving BOGG waivers will still be exempt."

The health fee proposal that

was adopted by the board in 1992 provided a minimum budget of \$120,000 per year. It was determined by directors of other community college health centers that this was the least amount of money on which a health center could operate and provide basic services.

"The allocations for Valley College fell significantly below the current minimum level," Delahoussaye said. "The increase will make it possible to provide services in line with the statewide standard."

In January, Valley entered into a contract with the Health Services Association of California Community Colleges (HSACCC).

"The HSACCC conducted a student survey and the results of that survey were the most positive aspect of the assessment,"

SEE Health Fee Page 2

Walk-In Counseling Offered

By STEVE BELAND
STAR REPORTER

Students seeking academic counseling before the end of this semester have a new option available to them.

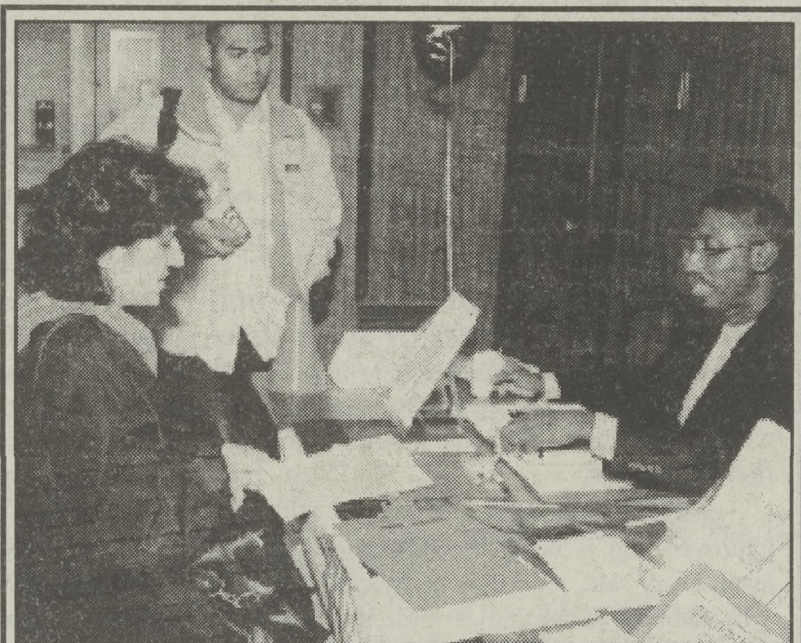
From Dec. 1-19, students may schedule same-day appointments with counselors.

"There's been a very positive reaction from students," said

Synthia Saltoun, director of counseling. "They like that they can come in and be seen at the time of their appointment and not have to wait."

The new appointment system will also be in effect at the beginning of the spring 1998 semester from Jan. 5-30. After Jan. 30, students may schedule general 30-minute appointments

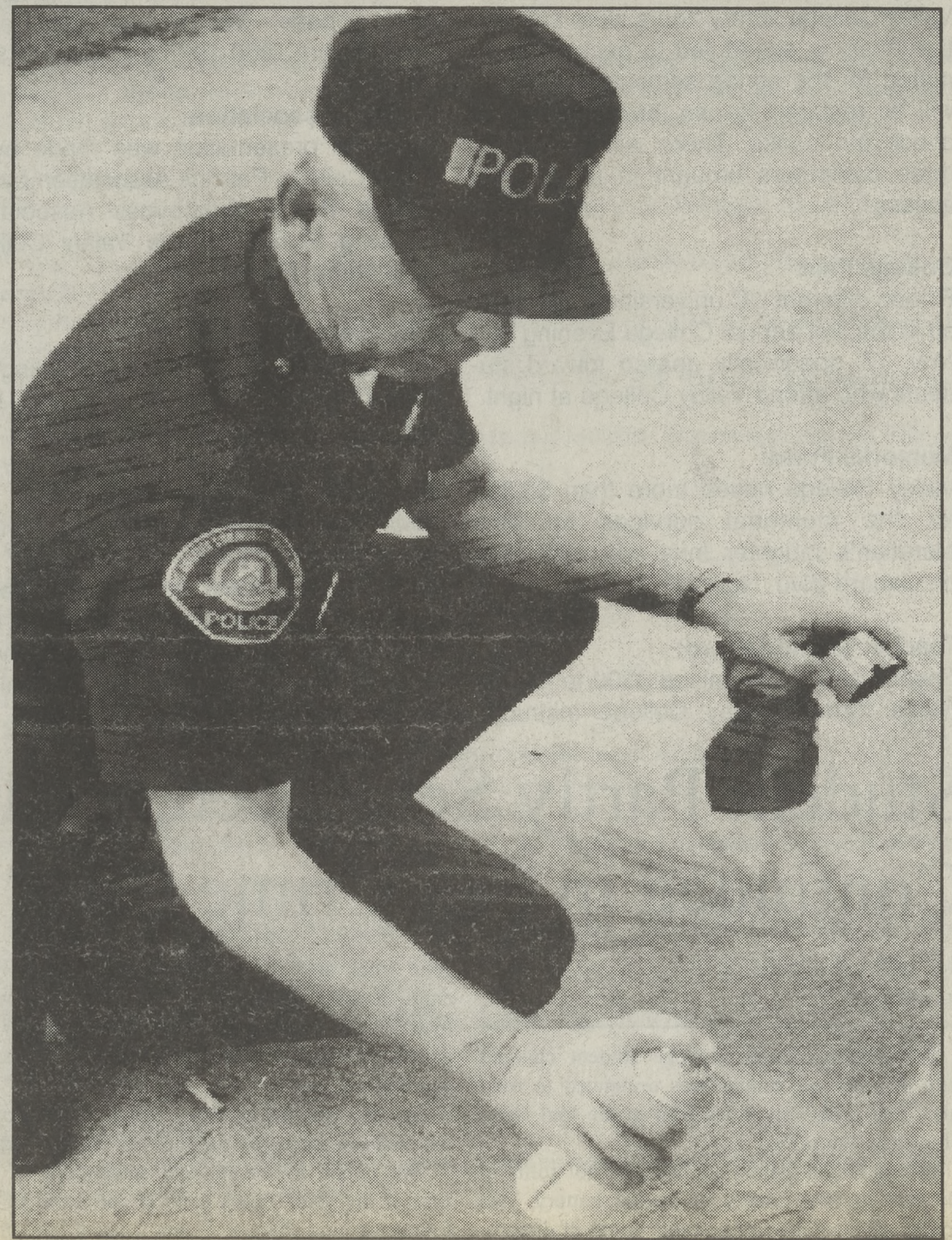
SEE WALK-IN Page 2



Luis O. Vasquez/Valley Star

Valley students Karine Gharibyan and Oscar Dominquez speak with a CSUN representative at the First Annual Evening Fair.

See Story page 2



Marla Halac/Valley Star

Campus Police Officer Michael T. Habicht removes graffiti before repainting. This is an ongoing task.

SEE GRAFFITI PAGE 6

New Student Group Begins in Spring

■ **GROUPS:** New association for science, engineering and medical students.

By NANCY BARAHONA
STAR REPORTER

A new association, the Pre-Medical, Engineering, and Science Scholars Association (PESSA) will begin in the 1998 spring semester, said Alberto Rivera.

"We want to establish a science organization to facilitate other science students with the same goals," said Rivera. "We are looking for any student interested in science academia, or any student thinking of engi-

neering or medical school to join."

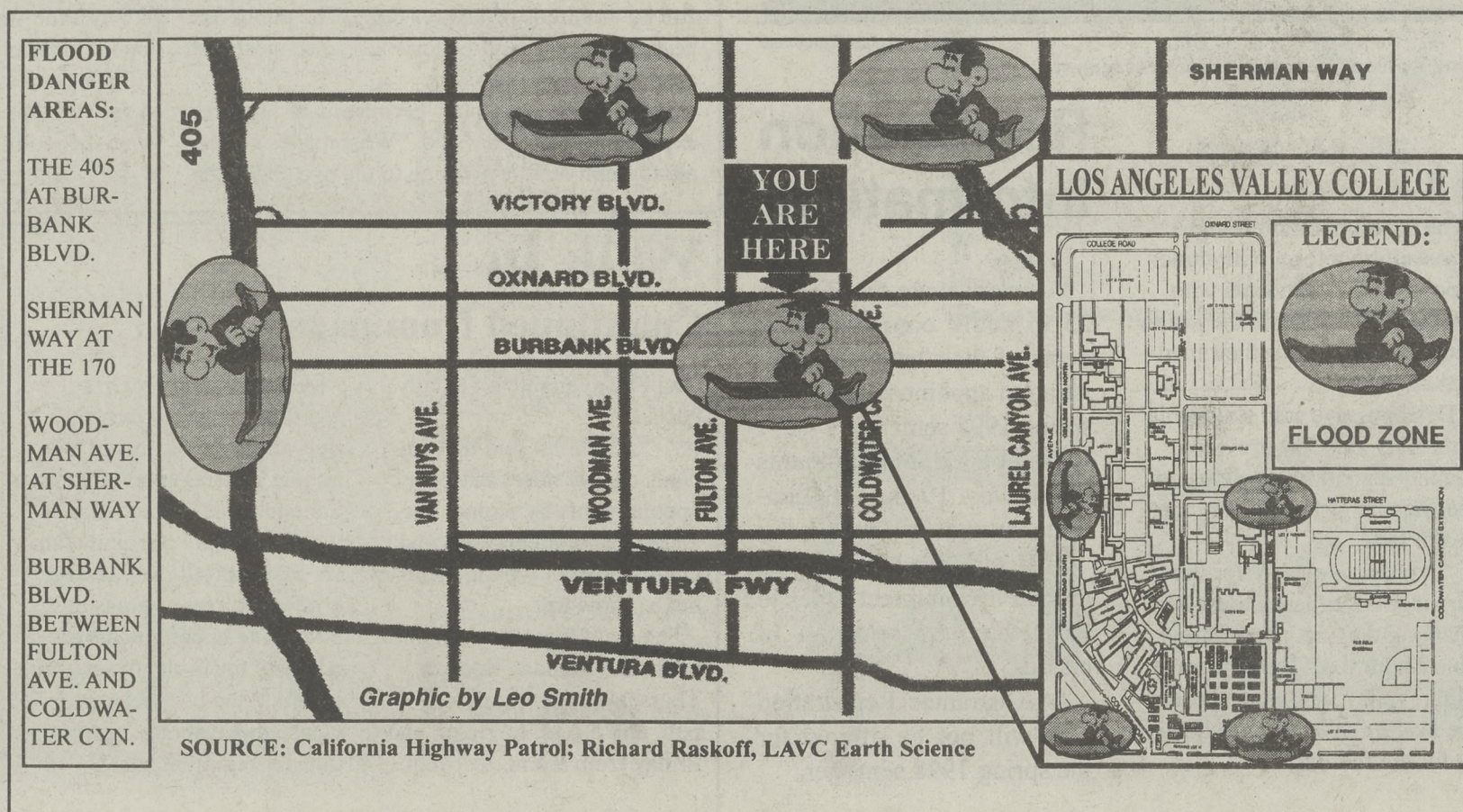
The purpose of the association is to establish a network foundation with other educational institutions; to provide support for student involvement within the community; to develop tutoring and mentoring programs for students; to provide the means of acquiring various opportunities including: internships, academic scholarships, and financial support for science students; and to increase the science academia, according to the association's constitution.

"I am most pleased to sponsor this association that will benefit the education and sci-

ence careers of the participants," said Karen Timberlake, sponsor of the association. "Their involvement with professionals in science, mentoring new science students and tutoring in the community will contribute greatly to their success as students in science and their future life choices."

For more information contact Rivera at the Student Assistance Center at 781-1200 extension 487.

"We are also looking for sponsors from science foundations and associations to network with," said Rivera. "We get to where we need to go by networking."



EL NIÑO

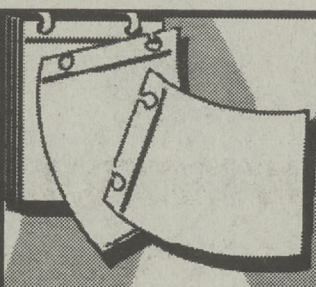
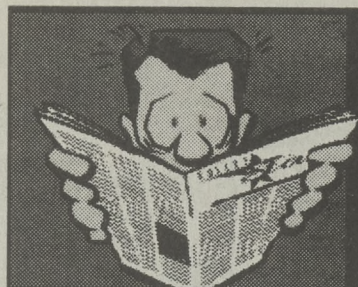
So far, for the month of December, the Valley has received 3.87 inches of rain.

According to the National Weather Services this is more rain than all of last December.

Students and faculty members will be affected by the rains because of the expected floods.

Streets that may be blocked because of flooding include Burbank Blvd. and Ethel Avenue.

The California Department of Transportation and The California Highway Patrol have set up a toll-free information hotline. Students and faculty can call 800 427-7623 for information regarding road conditions and road closures.



News

News Brief 1997 In Review

Library:

Valley College library hours were cut and the library is scheduled to become automated for the spring semester. Students will be required to use their ID cards to check out books. There will be two or three computers brought in for Internet access.

College Fair:

Fifteen different UC universities participated in the first annual College Evening Fair Nov. 17, specifically geared toward students who attend Valley College at night.

Memorial Fund:

Valley College raised more than \$3,500 for the memorial services for Rita Marutian's daughter, Inna, who was killed on Oxnard Blvd. Nov. 21.

Teacher Memorialized:

Friends and family raised \$300 to memorialize former Valley College instructor

Elenor Vactor with a plaque in a library display case. Vactor was a speech teacher from 1950-1975 and died in 1987.

Patrons Association:

A special presentation was made by to Valley College Patrons Association by the Retired Public Employess Association including \$1,500 for the Valley College Scholarship Fund.

BSU Celebrates Kwanzaa:

The Valley College BSU is holding its Kwanzaa celebration in Monarch Hall Dec. 13.

New Valley Star Editor in Chief:

Julio Cortez has been selected as the new editor in chief of the *Valley Star* for the spring 1998 semester. Rebecca Fowler, this semester's editor, congratulates Cortez and wishes him continued success in the Valley College Journalism Department.

Student Partly Sentenced, Trial Continued in Sex Crime Case

By LINDA E. THOMAS
STAR REPORTER

A suspended Valley College student charged with campus sex crimes was sentenced to road labor and probation at his trial in the Van Nuys Municipal Court Dec. 1.

Student David Quinn, 20, had pled not guilty in October to two counts of sexual battery, two counts of lewd conduct and one count of disturbing the peace. Last week, Quinn changed his plea to guilty for the disturbing the peace charge.

A municipal court judge continued Quinn's trial to Jan. 6 for the remaining four charges.

"I'm pretty sure we'll be having a jury trial," Public Defender Kim Curran, Quinn's attorney, said.

Quinn was charged in October for allegedly committing the crimes against three female Valley College students Sept. 16.

For disturbing the peace, Quinn was sentenced to 24 months probation and 10 days road labor.

"It's tough work," Los Angeles City Attorney

John Rock said Friday. "He will do road work eight hours a day in lieu of jail time because of overcrowding in the jails. It's supposed to be equivalent to jail time, but they just don't have the space to put him in."

The city attorney's office has not yet recommended sentencing on the four sex crime charges.

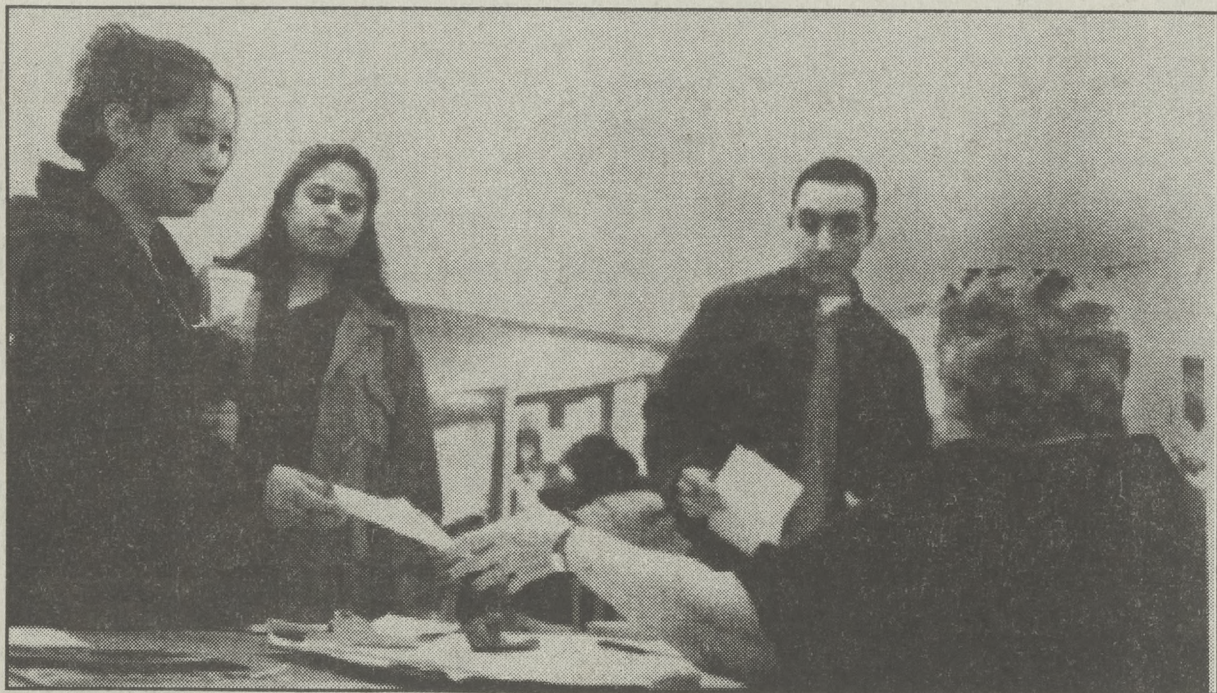
"We intend to recommend sentencing by the first of the year," Rock said. If convicted of the four remaining charges, Quinn faces at total of up to two years in jail and/or up to \$6000 in fines.

Quinn, who said at his arraignment that he had been seeing a psychiatrist since the incidents, may be recommended for a mental evaluation, a spokeswoman of the city attorney's office said Friday.

"A mental evaluation is possible," the spokeswoman said, "But it has not yet been confirmed."

Curran declined comment regarding her plans for Quinn's defense.

"I'm sure you understand that I cannot make a comment at this time," Curran said.



Luis O. Vasquez/Valley Star

Students sign up for Walk-In counseling, to help select classes for next semester

Health Fee

Continued from page 1

Delahoussaye said. "Student evaluations of the services they received were excellent."

The increased income will enable Valley to bring college allocations closer to the statewide average. It will help to minimize risk factors by providing funds to expand service hours and to enter into agreements with community medical agencies for after-hour services.

"We will be able to meet students' needs by expanding the physicians' and psychologists' hours at the centers and increasing immunizations and testing for communicable diseases," Delahoussaye said.

"The most important thing is that welfare reform will attract a population of students who will depend solely on the health center's services for their medical attention."

Delahoussaye said California Assembly Bill 549 provides reimbursement for students on fee waivers who don't pay the health fee.

"In order to qualify for the funding, the colleges must be charging the maximum allowable health fee," Delahoussaye said. "Valley will have to raise the health fee in order to qualify for the funding."

Registration Information

Postcards were mailed Oct. 25 to notify continuing students of their telephone registration appointments for the spring 1998 semester.

Telephone appointments began Nov. 19 and will continue through Jan. 8.

Students are advised to call at their appointment times to have the best selection of classes.

A Guarantee Registration Day will not be offered for the spring 1998 semester.



Photography student Maria Ivey's first place photo for the international Fuji "Kids in Action" photo contest. The photo, which is stunning in color, beat out thousands of entrants world-wide.

Photojournalism Student Wins International Award

By LINDA E. THOMAS
STAR REPORTER

A Valley College photography student has won first place in the international Fuji "Kids in Action" photography contest.

Maria Ivey, photojournalism major and three-time photo editor for the *Valley Star*, beat out thousands of entrants worldwide with her color photo of a Native American dancer. Ivey received a \$2,500 award and a Fuji camera as a first-place prize.

"I feel great because my photography has improved and is being recognized at a higher level," Ivey said. "It will help my career."

In addition to the Fuji award, Ivey has won three collegiate awards within the last year and three Certificates of Exhibition at the Los Angeles County Fair.

Also this year, one of Ivey's photographs was selected by the Los Angeles Zoo for professional publication and can be seen on display at the zoo by hundreds of visitors daily. The photo has been selected for an official L.A. Zoo postcard early next year, Ivey said.

"I love photography because I'm able to express myself," Ivey said. "What makes a great photograph is, it is pleasing to the eye and when

you look at it, you get involved in the photograph. Whether it's of a person or a landscape or something else, you can feel it — you're there."

Immediately following the Fuji win, Ivey received the Daily News-Gary Lawrence scholarship which she plans to use at Cal State Northridge, she said.

Ivey said she intends to complete her bachelor degree at CSUN while working with the university newspaper there. Her long-term goals include a doctorate degree and plans to teach at a major university, she said.

"I will always want to incorporate photography into my job because it's something I enjoy so much," Ivey said.

Ivey has been asked to exhibit some of her selected photographic works which show the cultural development of Los Angeles at CSUN during the spring semester, she said.

"She's a good photographer, that's not even an issue," Valley College photography instructor Tony Barnard said. "Talent is not the issue, either. Maria has shown great perseverance in finding time while she is raising a family. She's done professional work under dismal conditions without professional level equipment. The fact she's won these awards is just the beginning of what she really can do."

Walk In

Continued from page 1

will be available on a daily basis.

Saltoun said that students cannot make same-day appointments by phone. She added that students who make appointments by phone tend not to show up.

The counseling department's hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Students should realize there is a difference between the five-minute walk-in and 30-minute general appointments, Saltoun said. She added that the five-minute appointments are for counselors to answer brief questions whereas the 30-minute appointments are reserved for in-depth sessions in which the counselor provides advice about degree or transfer requirements.

Corrections

During the semester we have made mistakes and we tried to fix the mistakes before they came out in print, unfortunately there were some error that we missed. For all the error that we over looked we apologize and we hope you understand that we are learning and improving with each issue. Thank You for reading our paper, the Star Staff.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

ATTENTION STUDENTS!!

If you have average or above average cognitive abilities, but you are still experiencing severe problems in one or more of your courses, you may possibly have a learning disability. To find out more about learning disabilities, call the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS) Office at 818-781-8542, or come in person to Campus Center, Room 100.

Attention: Students with Temporary Disabilities or Injuries!!

The Adapted Physical Education Program at LAVC consists of classes specially designed for students with disabilities, but students who have physical injuries of a temporary nature can also benefit from this program.

Under the supervision of a trained Adapted Physical Education Instructor, students who need physical therapy or rehabilitation and who have permission from their physicians can participate in individualized exercise programs in an educational setting.

The Adapted PE Gym is open from 8:30 to noon daily and most classes are to be announced. For more information about the program call DSPS at 818-781-8542 or contact James Gayton, the Instructor, in the Men's Gym Room 103.

AWARDS AND COMPETITIONS

New Cherry Coke Web Site Urges Visitors to "Do Something Different"
Online Competition Seeks Creativity in Writing, Design and Music.

How does a budding screenwriter get attention for his creative concepts? How does an aspiring designer begin to stand out from the crowd? How does an unpublished composer get an "ear" for her works? How do all of them see the future?
The answer: www.cherrycoke.com.

Starting December 2, the Cherry Coke Web site will offer visitors the chance to express themselves creatively in a variety of mediums--music, art and writing. Each month, for four months, another competition will begin.

A panel of judges will award Cherry Coke hats to twenty four semi-finalists and a Sony digital camera to a finalist in each of the four competitions. At the end of the four competitions, the Internet community will pick one Grand Prize Winner from the four finalists, who will receive the ultimate grand-prize--his or her own theme page within the Cherry Coke Web site.

Visitors will have a chance to compete in:
Composing Music-- Special software will offer the tools to create a tune, listen to it and submit it.

Design the world of the future-- Use your imagination and some computer design tools to visualize how things could be.

Writing a movie treatment-- Choose from a cast of characters and craft a drama worthy of the silver screen.

Designing Web Screens-- Create new wallpaper for your computer screen.

The contest is open to U.S. residents.No purchase is necessary.

Contact: Kari Bjorhus 404-676-2532.

AUDITIONS

LAVC Theatre Department is holding Auditions, Monday, January 19, 1998, starting at 3:pm on the main stage for the play COMPANY.

Rehearsals for this production will begin February 16th. The play opens on April 9th. Pre-Qualifications include:

1. Must be able to rehearse afternoons.
2. Must be available to rehearse during Spring break.
3. Must pre-enroll in plays production to audition.

Parts Available: Robert, Harry, Sarah, Susan, Peter, Jenny, David, Amy, Paul, Marta, Kathy, April, (Larry-mid to late 40's).

Contact Pete Parkins at ext. 351.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

New Wildland fire suppression crew at Los Angeles Valley College (LAVC).

On June 16, 1997, a new fire suppression crew was formed in a joint venture agreement between LAVC and the U. S. forest service. As part of the national wildland fire suppression system the crew is equipped, organized and available for dispatch to fires and other emergencies in all the 50 states, U.S. possessions, Canada and Mexico.

Upon notification of fire assignment the crew manager, Karl Smith, activates the calling system. The crew assembles at LAVC, where their fire cache is maintained, to meet their bus. The crew is then transported to the fire by bus, or delivered to the airport for air transportation.

Crew members must be prepared to spend 21 days at a time away from home on emergencies. They must be prepared to work long exhausting hours under dangerous and demanding conditions.

To become a member of the crew a candidate must be a student at LAVC and have successfully completed a grueling 80 hour training program. Most students are pursuing a career in the fire service and plan to use this experience as a step toward full time employment and a chance to earn some money in the process. LAVC offers several programs in Fire Technology and will be offering another wildland firefighter course in August.

How (ILL) Literate are you?

PC User's Competency Test

ROBIN FEJES

STAR REPORTER

Are you thinking about taking a class in Computer Sciences, pursuing a career in this field, or even buying a PC? Before you do, you may want to take this test to see how much you really know about PC's. If you don't score that well, don't feel too bad, even Bill Gates had to start somewhere.

The Test (True or False)

1. Bill Gates father, Walter Gates, was the main person involved in the Watergate scandal, back in the 60's?
2. "JAVA," is a slang for a type of coffee, termed by the inn crowd at Starbucks? (This could be a trick question?).
3. A virus is a bug you catch when someone sneezes and spreads germs through the air, which can also enter the computer's system and infects its electric components?
4. "Bytes", refer to the number of chunks electricity removes from your disk each time you save information?
5. A server is an icon dressed as a waiter who appears on a computer monitor and asks you what you wish to choose from the main menu?

Multiple Choice

6. Macintosh is named after?
 - a. The Big Apple (New York).
 - b. A Computer Company.
 - c. A type of Apple.
 - d. Both b and c.
 - e. Both a and b.
7. Silicon Valley is famous for?
 - a. The research doctor's who work there and invented silicone breast implants.
 - b. The computer industry that was launched out of this area.
 - c. Bill Gates, who solely started Microsoft from this area.
 - d. A geologist digging for gold, who accidentally mined the silicon used in making the plastic computer components.
8. An icon is?
 - a. A representation of some sacred personage, as Christ or a saint or angel, painted usually on a wood surface and venerated itself as sacred.
 - b. A picture or symbol that appears on a monitor.
 - c. Madonna, who's fans started this term after her "Like a Virgin Tour".
 - d. All of the above.
 - e. None of the above.
9. A mouse is?
 - a. A quiet, timid person.
 - b. A palm-sized, button-operated device that can be slid on wheels or ball bearings over a desktop to move the cursor on a CRT, to any position.
 - c. A rodent.
 - d. A rounded object you hold in your hand, that has an electronic tail that can be used to add, change, delete information on your computer monitor instead of a keyboard.
 - e. All of the above.
10. A CRT is?
 - a. Cathode-ray tube.
 - b. Catheter reading tube, for an incubator.
 - c. A computer terminal or monitor that includes a cathode ray tube?
 - d. Both a and b.
 - e. Both a and c.
 - f. All of the above.

Answers

1. F 2. F 3. F 4. F 5. F 6. D 7. B 8. D 9. E. 10. E.

Scoring

To calculate your score, give your self one point for each question you answered correctly.

Points: 1-3 You are a computer loser, not user. Your first few tries may find you thinking a PC is user unfriendly. Stop being a mouse, trying to catch it in a trap and start using one. Refer back to our December 4, 1997 issue on Computer Science Information on how to get started.

4-6 This is the nineties you know. Don't quit your day job yet.

7-9 You are just entering the 20th century. You need to update your RAM AND ROM.

10. You are starting to see the 21st century is only a few years away, however Bill Gates is already working on Windows for the 22nd century. Perhaps the Pace program is for you.

For Your Information

The Valley Star Business page is an informative page for students and faculty regarding career opportunities and scholarship information.

If you would like to contribute information to the business page you can direct your questions, comments, or concerns to Valley Star Business writers Robin Fejes and Rebekah Fowler. Although we can't answer each question individually, we will respond to the subjects in upcoming issues.

Look for Valley Star mailboxes around campus or write to us in care of LA VALLEY STAR, 5800 Fulton Ave., Bldg. B, Van Nuys, CA 91401.

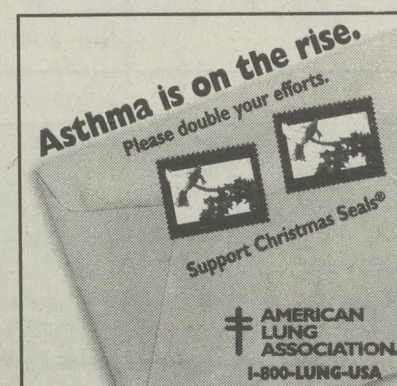
GET ON THE WEB!

The Valley College Journalism Department is launching an INTERNET MAGAZINE for the Spring Semester.

We need:
WRITERS
PHOTOGRAPHERS
ARTISTS
GRAPHIC ARTISTS
COMPUTER SAAVY
INDIVIDUALS
to help launch this new venture in ON-LINE JOURNALISM.

Participants can earn DIRECTED STUDY credit while learning new skills in web publishing.

For more information, contact Ed Bond, chair of the journalism department, at Ext. 274/276 or stop by BJ 114.
Ed_Bond@laccd.cc.ca.us



Opinion



The Truth Hurts: Hurray For Santa!

BY DEEANNE McCLAIN
STAR REPORTER



Well, it is holiday season and once again the age old question is posed: is Santa Claus real?

Santa Claus first appeared in the United States sometime around 1823 with the Christmas poem "The Night Before Christmas: A Visit from St. Nicholas" by Clement C. Moore.

America did not really know what he looked like until Thomas Nast, inspired by Moore, painted the very first definitive portrait of Santa Claus. One wonders how long it took to pose for it.

Of course, Santa Claus was not discovered by Americans. It was the Dutch settlers in New Amsterdam (New York) who first told Americans about Sinter Klaas who rode a white horse,

leaving gifts in wooden shoes.

Santa has been around for a long time. He has been known as Father Christmas, a bearded old man in a fur costume who appears in yuletide and gives presents and before that, as early as A.D. 325, St. Nicholas.

This patron saint of giving known in Greek as Hagios Nikolaos, bishop of Myra (Turkey), has thousands of churches dedicated to him. Legend has it that he used to give anonymous donations of gold coins to persons in need. Was this our Santa Claus?

It was after this saint's death that Christmas presents were distributed in December, when the pageant of St. Nicholas took place. One can only assume that if this man is our dear old Claus, that upon his death he retired to the world of dreams where he and his elves created Christmas. Not convinced?

There are those who live in

science and firmly fight all ideas of the jolly old man who visits our homes every Christmas Eve. They proclaim scientific formulas and calculations that dispute the possibility of flying reindeer who can fly at the speed of sound and carry thousands of pounds of presents.

Of course science can't explain Santa! For thousands of years science hasn't been able to prove that God exists, and yet, on our own dollar bill, the United States of America proudly proclaims, "In God we trust."

Santa is not a cute old legend to create holiday hype to sell toys. Santa is the embodiment of giving for all on earth. Santa can cross all religious and cultural barriers, bringing the spirit of joyous



Deeanne McClain/Valley Star
Rosy-Cheeked Nicholas and Anna.

giving into every household and hope into the heart of every child.

Sound corny?

Maybe so.

But I am certainly not the only one. Just take a look at all the others who believe.

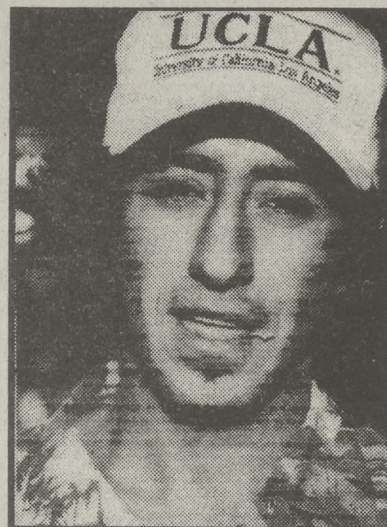
In China, Santa Claus is called Shengdan Laoren. In England, his name is Father Christmas. In France, he is Pere Noel and in Brazil and Peru he's called Papa Noel. Germans know him as Christindl, and in Morocco he is Black Peter.

In Japan he is Jizo and Italians call him Balfano or Babbo Natal. Jultomten in Sweden visits on Christmas Eve, pulling a big bag of Julklappar (Christmas presents) in the deep snow. In the Netherlands he is called Kertsman and in Russia he is called Grandfather Frost or Baboushka.

The familiar name Kris Kringle has an unknown origin. Perhaps this is a disguise name developed by the man himself. Of course, the movie "Miracle on 34th Street" ruined this for him.

Sure, some folks reading this may think me a bit loony for this article and think I am compromising my journalistic integrity. That's all right. Santa is not just another legend to laugh off. My little rosy cheeked kids will be eagerly awaiting Santa Claus' arrival this year and the look on their little faces says it all.

Do you believe in Santa Claus?



Luis Vasquez/Valley Star



Luis Vasquez/Valley Star

"No, I'm sure he'd get pissed off.

❖ I would keep the cash and call the guy and tell him I found his wallet.

❖ Nah, it doesn't matter. He's my friend."

Sasun Bagungan

"No. Sometimes she still loves him, or he is used. But sometimes there is fire between you.

❖ No, I'd return the cash.

❖ I wouldn't turn in my friend. It is against my culture. It's part of my soul."

Rimma Shuarts

End of Year Question: Are You Ethical?

❑ If your best friend broke up with their partner, would you date them?

❑ If you found a wallet with ID and \$1,000 cash, would you return it?

❑ If your best friend committed a terrible, heinous crime, would you turn them in?



Luis Vasquez/Valley Star

"I would date her.

❖ Certainly I would bring this money back to the person that lost it.

❖ It is very delicate. I think I wouldn't tell the police. I would try to learn more about what he did."

Claudio Lourenco



Luis Vasquez/Valley Star

"Yes, I would. I don't think that her being my best friend has anything to do with me dating someone else. If they're broke up, they're broke up.

❖ No, I'd return it.

❖ Yeh, I would have to."

Kimberly Paige



Luis Vasquez/Valley Star

"Oh, no way. Never date anybody your friends have dated.

❖ I want to say I'd return it all, but I'd be really tempted to keep it.

❖ If she confided in me, I probably wouldn't."

Caroline Peralta

BY KIM BARNES
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

It's 1997 and we're heading toward a new century as well as a new millennium.

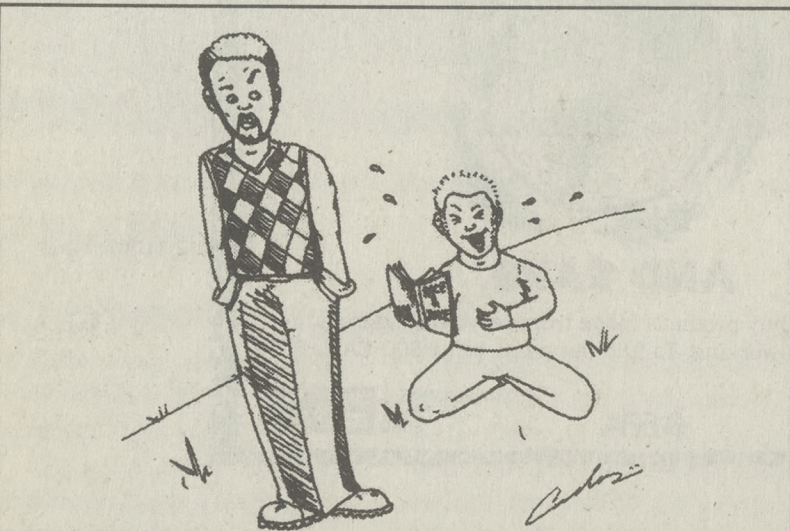
One would think that another article about racism would be unnecessary. However, here I am at my computer typing an opinion piece about the subject.

I have very strong opinions about racism. I don't like it in any form. It's a waste of time and energy.

I find it hard to believe that so many people think they are better than others simply because of their race.

I know when many of you think about racism, you think about the 1950's and 1960s when racism was rampant and openly apparent.

Pictures of segregated restaurants and



drinking fountains come to mind. However, just because that era is over, it does not mean that racism is no longer in existence in the United States.

Each time we tell or laugh at a racist joke, in a way we are putting our seal of approval on racism.

We may think a joke is harmless, only words. However, each time we think that, we are helping to perpetuate the ugly monster of racism.

The same goes for those so-called stereotypical remarks about someone's race (i.e. all black people are criminals, Polish people are stupid, etc).

Actions like these are what keeps racism alive and well in America.

I know many of you are now thinking, this can't be, racism does not exist any more, especially here in California. I have to tell you that you are wrong.

For example, in 1991 I was working as a real estate agent in the San Fernando Valley. I received a phone call from a couple that wanted to purchase a condo in the northeast valley (keep in mind that the San Fernando Valley is

very integrated).

During the conversation, the couple said they wanted to live in a nice area. The whiter the better they said.

This took me totally by surprise. As an African-American woman, I found it hard to believe that these people would not want to live in the same neighborhood as me.

I was hurt and disappointed.

Needless to say, once this couple found out I was black, they chose, in a very subtle way, not to do business with me.

After the initial shock wore off, I stopped being hurt and got angry. Then after the anger wore off, I realized that these people were just ignorant.

That's what racism is based on, ignorance.

As students, we should be intelligent enough not to give in to racism.

As human beings we should be compassionate enough to understand that we were all put on this earth to live together.

Not to just tolerate each other, not to make jokes or racial slurs about each other, but to live together.

I hope that after reading this article, many of you will stop and think before making a racially degrading statement or telling a racial joke.

I also hope that next time someone tells you a racial joke, you just smile and say "I'm sorry, I don't think that's very funny. Perhaps that person will think before telling another such joke."

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Mr. Claus... Take A Hike!

By ANGELA LUSSIER
STAR REPORTER

Don't get me wrong - I love Christmas. But I, like many other people I know, hate what it's become. And I blame Santa.

What do we (Christians, that is) teach our children about the holiest day of the year? If you've ever read anything I've written over the past semester, you would know what a left wing liberal I am. So wait before you judge me as some religious fanatic.

The fact is, Santa is the root cause of the materialism of this Christian holiday. I don't see some caricature residing over Hanukkah or the other Jewish holy days. But we even have one for Easter.

Think about it. What is the most heard phrase the day after Christmas? "What'd you get?"

It started more subtly, even sweetly, with "Oh,

honey. What did Santa bring you? Now even *this* wouldn't be so bad if it weren't for that damn list!

Just when did Santa ever really reward children for being nice? Checking it twice? I think he'd better check again.

Many kids in America can afford the luxury of this deception. But what about the ones who can't.

How many good little poor kids come away with more than their rich bratty counterparts? (The ones that grow up to have specialized license plate holders that read "The one with the most toys wins.")

Why do we need Santa? Some would say for the "unbelievers." Well, I don't see how that serves the spirit of Christmas and I think that really

underestimates our non-Christian friends. Surely they can find something deeper to rejoice in.

How about hope, salvation, generosity and appreciation? Are these not the gifts we should celebrate at this time of year? How does Santa help? Is it tradition? I can think of a few traditions that screwed us up pretty bad but this is one of the worst.

Our kids start making up their lists as soon as they hear about the latest new Hasbro toy, high-tech computer action game or something else Santa's elves have to buy at the local shopping mall.

Some of us can detach ourselves enough to ignore these facts and enjoy the holiday in foolish bliss. I just can't help feeling for the kids who I

have heard making up lies about what they got for Christmas, just so they can compete with their peers.

Hey I'm not against buying presents for each other - that's great. But let's be real about it. Those who can afford to buy more do so - those who can't don't.

There should be no shame in that. No premeditated judgment of character by some old pajama clad psychic required.

I'll lay off Santa when he starts keeping his word. Until then, as far as I'm concerned, he's just a poisonous fairy tale.

How about a new tradition? I would hope that we could find something of real value to share with our children at this time of the year; perhaps a nice drive in the country to look at the stars?

Maybe, if we look hard enough, we might find a star that will inspire us the way one did for three wise men 2000 years ago.



More Christmas Complaints...

By LIZ BARRETT
STAR REPORTER

Tis' the season once again. Time for everyone to be on their best behavior in hopes of getting their most wished for Christmas gift.

Once upon a time, Christmas used to be about family and togetherness. It used to be about bringing everyone together to celebrate the birth of Christ.

Those days are over! Starting around the beginning of November, you begin to hear people talking about how the holidays are going to put a huge hole in their pocketbook and how they have to buy gifts for all these people that they don't even like.

Others begin bringing canned goods and unopened toys to local restaurants and movie theaters. I'm sure some of them aren't being selfish when they do it, but most just want the discount off dinner or the promise of a free tub of popcorn.

What ever happened to helping our fellow man all year round? Why is it that people only feel the need to help

out in November and December of every year?

Do they think that there are only homeless and hungry people during the winter?

Kids used to want toys and dolls for presents; now they want cellular phones and cars.

The Christmas season has turned from something beautiful and joyous into two months of greed and selfishness.

The credit card companies begin their dance of joy around the 24th of December, thinking of all the money consumers have wasted all month on useless gadgets and gizmos.

They revel in the thought that it will take most of their customers all year to pay off the debt. Maybe, just for kicks, they'll even raise the interest rate around the middle of February.

How has Christmas gotten so out of hand? Can we blame it on the media? Can we blame it on all the catalogs and sales brochures we get in the mail?

No. They play a part in the larger scheme of things, but in the end we can

only blame ourselves. We are the ones who buy, buy, buy until we have used every cent. We are the ones who feel the need to give everyone we know a gift, for fear they won't like us anymore if we don't. We are the ones who let greed make our decisions for us.

So, what can we do now? There is still some time left to stop ourselves from making the same mistakes as last year.

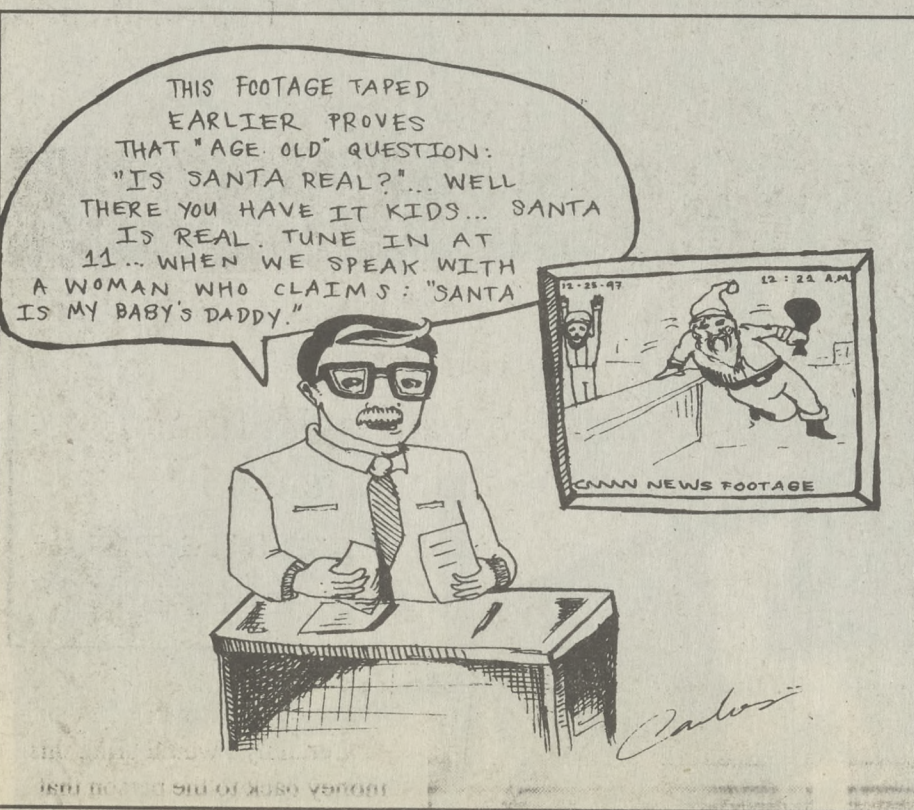
All I need to do is think of how I am still paying for last years gift giving extravaganza.

That alone is enough to tell me to steer clear of the malls as much as possible, and when I do go, I have to leave the plastic at home.

I've realized that people won't love you any less for spending a little less money on their gift. If they are truly a friend, they won't want to see you filing bankruptcy in January because of the money you spent in December.

This season, try to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas, and encourage others around you to do the same.

Merry Christmas!

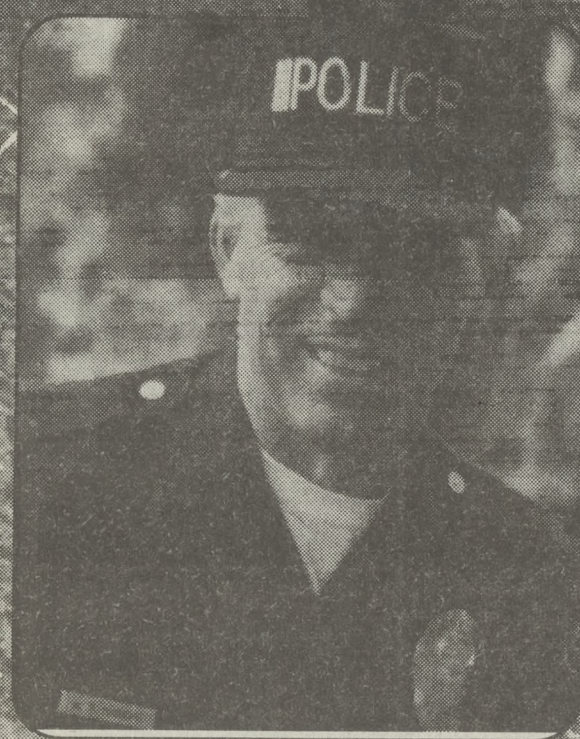




Thursday, December 11, 1997

Valley Star

Graffiti Buster Officer Habicht



Photos By Marla Halac

Officer gets Kudos from Peers

By REBEKAH FOWLER
STAR REPORTER

Campus police officers describe fellow officer Michael T. Habicht as the public relations officer. Students relate to him as a "cool cop."

What makes Officer Habicht so different? His attitude. He takes time to do odd jobs which are not in his job description. He is known as Mr. Clean. He spends countless hours painting and repainting the graffiti which students tag around campus.

What do colleges have to say about Officer Habicht?

Captain Carl Traber said, "He is a compassionate public relations officer. He is the kind of guy who is more concerned about student welfare."

Officer Spencer Gosenson said, "He has a lot of heart. He has his own agenda to improve the college and it includes everything from stopping crime to painting over graffiti."

What are some unforgettable stories from fellow officers?

Police dispatcher Nora Horwich said, "He once rescued a homeless woman who laid in the grass in Monarch Square and refused to get up. He laid down with her talking to the sky until she finally allowed others to help her. He will do anything to help a person in trouble."

Officer Gosenson said, "He once help me retrieve a stolen police cart. It was taken miles off of campus and he and I hitched the cart to my jeep to tow it back to the campus. Officer Habicht rode in the cart waving to strangers all the way back. He didn't care if people laughed, he was enjoying the ride."

Students, faculty and friends of Officer Habicht all say that he is able to relate to everyone on the same level and his actions need no explanation.

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Here's a look at the entertainment events in and around Valley College during the 1997 fall semester.

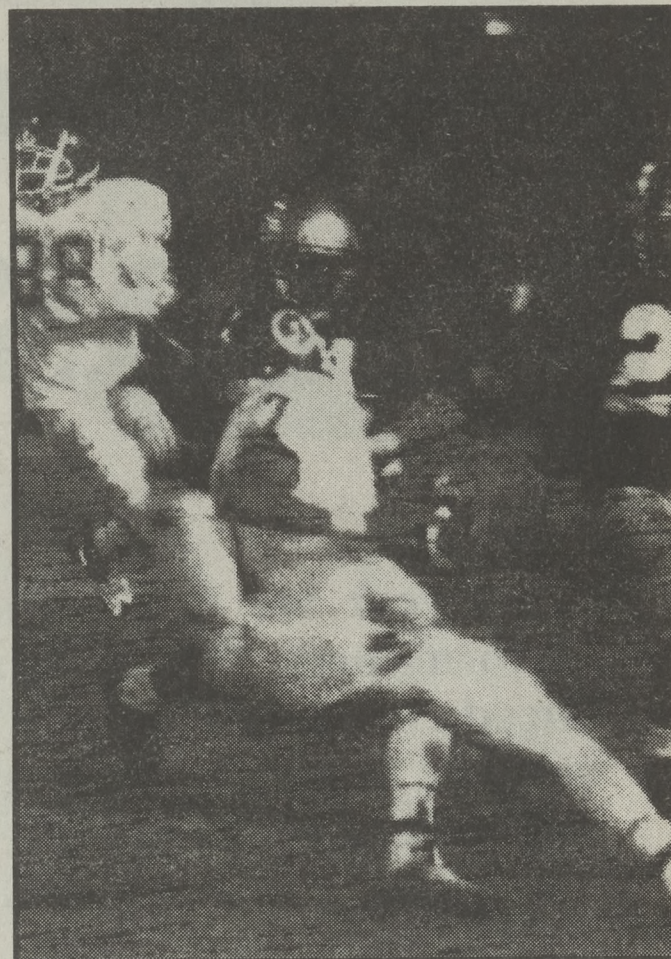
Photos by: Maria Ivey, Kathy Lustig and David Baldwin, Valley Star

Here's a look at the entertainment events in and around Valley College during the 1997 fall semester.

Photos by: Maria Ivey, Kathy Lustig and David Baldwin, Valley Star



Mike Scarcelli from Valley College tries to fend off a defender and score, on the way to helping the Monarch's to a winning record for the season.



A Santa Monica Player slides while trying to slip out of the grasp of two oncoming Valley defenders in the second to last game of the season.

This Season in Valley College Sports: As I See It

Opinion

By BEN ALTER
STAFF REPORTER

There is only one thing that can be said about sports at Valley College this semester. Way to go.

I have to say this, I was really impressed with the

way all the teams performed this semester. Ok, so the Football team didn't play as well as last years squad. big deal. The team had a new head coach and some new assistant coaches.

I personally think they did a great job this season. They finished the season with a record of 6-4. So what if they didn't go to a bowl game, the finished

with above a .500 record. That in my eyes means that they played well this season.

Then there is Water Polo. How about those women. they came together in their inaugural season and played like true champs. Yeah so it wasn't as tough of a division as it should have been, but this is the first season for the conference.

The team finished second in the conference with a record of 8-12. Alright I know what your thinking, they didn't have a .500 record, but they played a lot of teams with experience.

The men's water polo team also had an outstanding season, finishing with a record of 18-9 and ending up fourth overall in a very tough conference.

The team played well, pulled together like a team should and qualified for the Western States Conference Play-offs, only to be defeated by Cuesta College in the first round.

Overall I would have to say that I was impressed with sports this semester at Valley and I think that all of the athletes who played their respective sports should be proud of themselves.

Congratulations to you all. you put on a good show.



A Valley and Fullerton Player fight for the ball in a game in the inaugural season of the women's water polo team.

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